



World Christian Fellowship

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Seven Churches History

Apostolic era (33-100 A.D.)

34 Apostle Peter founds See of Antioch.

35 The name Christian first used in Antioch.

37 Joseph of Arimathea travels to Britain and lands in Glastonbury.

40 Apostle Barnabas sent from Jerusalem to Antioch to strengthen community after persecution when church leaders flee city.

~46-48 Apostle Paul's first missionary journey, with Apostle Barnabas (**Acts 13 - 14**).

49 Apostolic Council of Jerusalem rules that Gentiles do not have to become Jews before becoming Christians.

~49-52 Apostle Paul's second missionary journey, with Apostle Silas (**Acts 15:39 - 18:22**).

50 Apostle Matthew finishes the Gospel of Matthew in Aramaic.

52 Apostle Thomas arrives in Kerala, introducing Christianity to India.

~53-57 Apostle Paul's third missionary journey (**Acts 18:23 - 21:16**).

~59-62 Apostle Paul's fourth missionary journey, voyage to Rome (**Acts 27 - 28:16**).

62 Martyrdom of Apostle James; crucifixion of Apostle Andrew in Patras.

63 Aristobulus consecrated as first bishop of Britain.

64-68 First of ten major persecutions of the Early Church, under Emperor Nero.

67 Martyrdom of the Apostle Peter in Rome;
Martyrdom of the Apostle Paul in Rome;



I	Ιησους	=	Jesus
χ	Χριστός	=	Christ
θ	θεός	=	God
ύ	ύιος	=	Son
ς	σωτήρ	=	Savior

I-----IESOUS-----JESUS
CH-----CHRISTOS---CHRIST
TH-----THEOU-----OF GOD
U-----UIOS-----SON
S-----SOTER-----SAVIOR

68 Suicide of Emperor Nero;

69 Ignatius of Antioch consecrated bishop of Antioch.

70 Apostle Mark writes Gospel;

Temple in Jerusalem is destroyed by the Romans;

Expulsion of the Christians from the synagogues;

71 Apostle Mark introduces Christianity to Egypt.

75 Judea, Galilea and Samaria are renamed Palestine by the Romans.

80 Gospel of Luke written by the Apostle Luke;

85 Acts of the Apostles written by Apostle Luke.

90 Council of Jamnia (Javneh) marks final separation and distinction between the Jewish and Christian communities.

Jewish canon of Scripture closed;

Gospel of John written by Apostle John

95 Apostle John writes Book of Revelation.

~90-96 Persecution of Christians under Emperor Domitian.

100 Death of Apostle John.

Struggle of Survival (AD100- 313)

~117-138 Rylands Library Papyrus is generally accepted as the earliest extant record of a canonical New Testament text, dating somewhere between 117 A.D. and 138 A.D.

120 Beginning of time of the Apologists: Justin Martyr, Aristides, Tatian, Athenagoras of Athens, Theophilus, Minucius Felix, Tertullian and Quadratus, writing to defend the Church against internal heresies, and to defend the faith before the Jews, and

before the larger pagan world, using Greek philosophic concepts and terms.

128 Aquila's Greek translation of the Old Testament

135 Christmas instituted as a feast day in Rome.

155 Martyrdom of Polycarp of Smyrna.

Polycarp, disciple of Apostle John is burned at the stake.

180 Irenaeus, disciple of Polycarp, writes Against Heresies.

Irenaeus (c.130 – 202), wrote “Against Heresies” to expose the heresy of Gnosticism. Dualism was one of the main tenets of the Gnostics. They believe that the material is evil, and the spirit is good. This led them to believe that the Lord Jesus Christ could not have come in real human flesh, because the flesh is evil.

Apostle John wrote against insipient Gnosticism in his epistles.

208 Tertullian writes that Christ has followers on the far side of the Roman wall in Britain where Roman legions have not yet penetrated.

249-251 Persecution under Emperor Decius.

255-256 Three Councils of Carthage.

284 Diocletian becomes Roman emperor, persecutes Church and martyrs an estimated one million Christians;

Martyrdom of Cosmas and Damian, Andrew Stratelates ("the General") and 2,593 soldiers with him in Cilicia;

300 The Christian population is about 6,200,000, or 10.5% of the population of the Roman Empire (based on population of 60 million).

312 Vision and conversion of Constantine the Great;

Defeat of Maxentius at the Battle of Milvian Bridge, making Constantine Emperor of the West;

Martyrdom of Lucian of Antioch, who had completed a recension of the Septuagint and the Four Gospels in Greek and inspired the development of the School of Antioch and Biblical textual study.

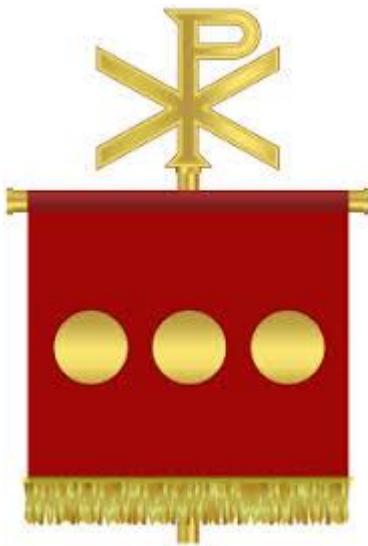
Growth of Church (AD313-590)

313 Edict of Milan issued by Constantine the Great and co-emperor Licinius, officially declaring religious freedom in the Roman Empire, specifically naming religious toleration for Christianity, restoration of property to Christian churches, and legal recognition.

321 Constantine declares Sunday a holiday in honour of the Resurrection.

323 Constantine the Great builds church on the site of the martyrdom of Peter in Rome.

324 Constantine defeats Licinius and becomes sole emperor; the Labarum with the "Chi-Rho" Christogram became the official standard of the Roman Empire.



Chi-Rho, the first two letters of Jesus Christ in Greek, which Constantine saw in a vision along with the words "in this sign you will conquer".

325 Council of Nicaea condemns Arianism

Heresies that were condemned during this and subsequent councils include:

1. Arianism, which attacked the deity of Christ;
2. Apollinarism, which attacked the humanity of Christ;
3. Nestorianism which taught that Christ is two separate persons, one divine and one human;
4. Pelagianism, which denied that original sin has corrupted man's nature and that man still has the ability to choose good or evil on his own;
5. Monophysitism, which taught that Christ has only one nature,

either a human or a divine nature; and

6. Eutychianism, which claimed that Christ's human and divine natures were fused together

341 Council of Antioch held; Emperor Constans bans pagan sacrifices and magic rituals under penalty of death.

380 Christianity established as the official faith of the Roman Empire by Emperor Theodosius the Great;

381 First Council of Constantinople condemns Apollinarianism and Montanism

The bishop of Rome, whose leadership in the church had been largely a primacy of honour, now claimed supreme and universal authority in Christian lands, and began to make good this claim in the West, at least over the church. By the time of **Pope Gregory I (590–604)** the collapse of the Western Empire left the Roman bishop the real ruler of much of central Italy.

393 Council of Hippo publishes Biblical canon;

395 Augustine becomes bishop of Hippo in North Africa;

397 Council of Carthage publishes Biblical canon;

401 Augustine of Hippo writes Confessions;

476 Fall of Western Roman Empire;

482 Byzantine emperor Zeno I issues Henotikon to reconcile the differences over the Christology.

Medieval Church (AD590- 1517)

590 Gregory the Great becomes the first Medieval Pope

Gregory the Great (c. 540 – 604) expanded the power of the Roman bishop. Prior to this, the bishopric in Rome, Antioch and Alexandria shared power. He attributed both spiritual and temporal authority to the Bishop in Rome.

680 – 692 Eastern and Western Churches drift apart

787 Second council of Nicaea condemns the worship of idols

800 Charlemagne crowned the first Holy Roman emperor in Rome

1097 – 1099 First Crusade to the Holy Land

1175 Peter Waldo commissions the translation of the Bible into the ordinary normal language.

Peter Waldo (c. 1140 – c. 1205) founder of the Waldensians (c. 1170), a pre-reformation group which emphasised the importance of preaching the Word of God.

1251 Introduction of the Doctrine of Transubstantiation by the Roman Church.

1309 – 1378 Papal palace in Avignon, France. For 70 years the pope resided in Avignon due to the conflict between the Papacy and the French Crown.

1382 Completion of Wycliffe Bible, a translation of the Latin Vulgate into English

1413 John Huss writes De Ecclesia

1415 John Huss burnt at the stake

1450 Johann Gutenberg invents the Printing Press

Europe, UK and the churches 1517 to till now

1517 Martin Luther posts his 95 theses on the door of the castle-church in Wittenberg, Germany

1509, Jean Calvin, was born north of Paris, he was the son a secretary to the bishop. Studied to be a lawyer in Paris.

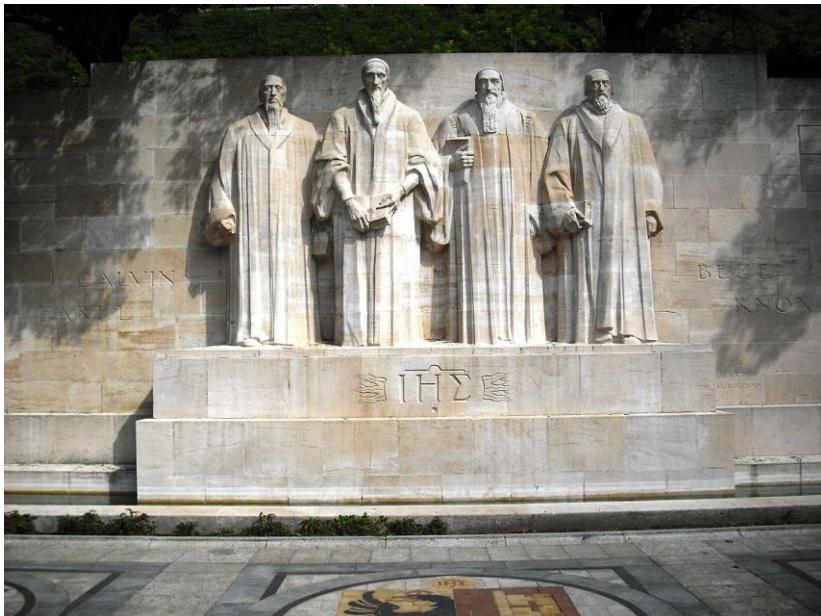
1532, Early twenties, under the influence of Luther's writings he became an evangelical. Result of that, he had to flee to Paris because he was accused of writing things that were insurrectionist against the Catholic Church.

1536, he had completed the great institutes of Christian religion, his monumental Calvin's Institutes. He originally wrote them in Latin and later translated them into French.

Because of the tremendous persecution that broke out in France, Calvin went to Geneva.

1536, The city of Geneva had declared itself a city of the Reformation, and adopted reform theology, brought an end to the Mass.

Reformation Monument in Geneva. Four important reformers: William Farel, John Calvin, Theodore Beza, and John Knox.



He converted the Catholic cathedral into a reformed cathedral. That cathedral is still there. In the chapel he exposited the Scriptures for all those years from 1536 to 1564.

He came there, not intending to settle there, but he was confronted by a man named Farel, Guillaume Farel, who was a great Reformer.

Farel told Calvin that he should stay in Geneva and do his ministry there.

1559, he founded the academy, which is now the University of Geneva. According to some reports, he also established a seminary there. So many Protestants, called Huguenots in

France, were leaving France under the fiery persecution of the Catholic Church.

When they arrived in Geneva John Calvin, teaching the Word of God to those who were fleeing the persecution. He trained two thousand pastors to go back with the true message of the gospel and the true reformation faith.

His seminary became known as the seminary of death, because so many of the preachers he trained went back to France and died as martyrs – seminary of death.

The effect of John Calvin's life and ministry is almost beyond description. "The Institutes of Christian Religion," completed in 1536.

Book one is on the knowledge of God, revelation.

Book two is on sin, the fall, the separation of man from God, and God's redeeming activity.

Book three on faith, salvation by faith on election, by which God directs our lives.

Book four, on the true and the false church, and the ordinances or sacraments of the church.

1536-1564 He also wrote commentaries on every book of the Bible that came out of his constant teaching.

He wrote a commentary on every book in the Bible except Revelation. He wrote catechisms. He collaborated in the translation of the Bible into French.

He was the one who instituted the public education as compulsory in the West and Europe. He developed a system of charity directed at the poor and needy.

He developed a system for the regulations of loans and interest and the legal offices of the city of Geneva and the regulation of justice in the courts.

Those countries which accepted the Reformation – Switzerland, Germany, Holland, and England – became the most prosperous countries in Europe.

If you look at the history of the world you will find those countries most strongly influenced by Protestant reformation, including America and Canada.

1522 Luther translates the New Testament into German

1526 William Tyndale completes translation and printing of New Testament from Greek into English.

1535 The Coverdale Bible – the first complete English Bible, is printed

1505- 1572 John Knox went Geneva, because over in England, Mary Tudor on behalf of the Catholic Church, was also executing believers. So John Knox, under the threat of death, left England, came to Geneva in 1556. While he was there, John Knox translated the Bible from the original languages into English, 1556.

1559, John Knox went back to Scotland to print that Bible and also to establish the Reformation, which became known as Scottish Presbyterianism. It was the first Bible ever printed in Scotland.

1560 Beginning of Puritanism in England.

1611 King James Version published.

1618 – 1619 Dutch Reformed Synod of Dort convened

1620 Pilgrims set sail on the Mayflower to America

1648 Westminster Confession of Faith approved and accepted by English Parliament End of the Thirty Years' War between Roman Catholics and Protestants.

The Age of Revival (1648 – 1789)

1674 Birth of Isaac Watts

1678 John Bunyan publishes Pilgrim's Progress. John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress has been translated to more than 200 languages and was written while he was in prison. He was imprisoned for 12 years for being a non-conformist.

1729 Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) preaches in Northampton preached "Sinners in the hands of an angry God" in 1741.

1738 Conversion of John and Charles Wesley

1739 The Great Awakening in America led by George Whitefield

Age of Missions (1719-1914)

- 1790** Second Great Awakening begins in America
- 1793** William Carey sails as missionary for India
- 1835** Robert Murray M'Cheyne pastors a Presbyterian church in Scotland
- 1836** George Muller opens orphanage in England
- 1847** William Chalmers Burns begins missions work in Shantou, China
- 1834-1892** Charles Spurgeon, the prince of preachers. He warned against the “down grade” of the church in his monthly magazine, “The Sword and the Trowel.”
- 1854** Hudson Taylor begins missions in China
- 1873 – 1875** D.L. Moody holds revival meetings
- 1906** Azusa Street Revival marks the rise of the Charismatic movement

What happened?

This is sad.

Reformation that starts in 1517 with Martin Luther, and you have preachers with a flourishing expository teaching ministry that goes all the way through the whole Bible, as well as writing the great theology.

Printing press invented and Bibles printed 1545.
You have all of these marvellous influences of the Reformation.
You have preachers going everywhere preaching the Reformation gospel.

You have the establishment of a state-reformed church in Holland, a state-reformed church in Switzerland, a state-reformed church in Germany, and going back to England with John Knox, the great Scottish reformation, and back into England the great reformation that ultimately yields the 1611 King James Version of the Bible, and you have all of this tremendous influence.

Obviously, the Catholic Church maintained its power in many places – Spain, France, and Italy. But the Protestant Reformation had a massive impact upon England.

Wherever English went, they basically took the gospel, whether it was India or USA or Canada or whether it was other of their colonies, including South Africa.

But there was tremendous influence out of the Reformation. It was not a small event.

It changed the face of Europe economically in terms of civil law, in terms of society, and how people lived their lives. It brought in democracy. It broke the back of monarchies.

Yet today and the church is small, the church is weak, and the church, in many ways, is defeated.